

possible so far as Genesis 1 or 2 are concerned . Thus I cannot reject the "gap theory" as an exegetical impossibility. It is possible that this earth was first created, and ~~that~~ ^{and} then/through some crisis it fell into a chaotic condition. After all, there is no question that Satan/^{that}before man was put into the Garden of Eden. When Satan came to tempt Adam he was already a fallen creature. It surely must have happened before Genesis 2:1. I would think there must be an interval ^{fell} for between verses 1 and 2 in which Satan fell, but/whether his fall had anything to do with this earth we have no Scriptural evidence. I know of no Scriptural basis on which to say that the earth existed before Genesis ~~verse=12~~ 1:2 ~~but~~ but I do not know of any clear Scriptural proof that it did not. My own guess is that some sort of the cosmic process was initiated by God in verse 1 which describes His original creation of matter, and then that at some point in this process, perhaps immediately after it began, perhaps billions of years later, He produced the ~~condition~~ condition described in verse 2 in which He began to take this inchoate mass of matter and to form it into the earth on which He intended that man should dwell.

Dr. Whitcomb asked me to look over the book on the Flood before it was published. I wrote him that I would be very glad to look over the part that he wrote, the first four chapters, but that the remaining chapters dealing with ^{geology} ~~theology~~, were in an area in which I was not competent to pass judgment, and I could see no object in my ~~study~~ going through them. He sent ~~ex~~ me the first four chapters. His first three chapters are devoted to ~~proving~~ proving from the Biblical basis that the Flood that the Bible teaches that there was a universal Flood. I think he has gathered the material in an excellent way, and has presented it very cogently. I made a number of minor suggestions about the ~~manner~~ manner of presentation and he informed me that he had accepted all of my suggestions. They were all very minor. I felt that he had done an excellent ~~piece~~ piece of work in these three chapters. In the fourth chapter he begins to use the work ~~uniformitarianism~~ "uniformitarianism" which I believe is an